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The Signal



Friday, April 14, 2006

Published for the Department of Defense and the Fort Gordon community

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News UPDATE

New G.O. at Fort Gordon

Col. Jeffrey G. Smith, director, TRADOC Program Integration Officer for Networks here, has been nominated for promotion to brigadier general. From his arrival in August 2004 until assumption of duties as TPIO in July 2005, he was deputy commander, U.S. Army Signal and Fort Gordon.

More details will follow in future editions of *The Signal*.

Added gate security

Beginning **May 1**, there will be mandated additional security requirements at the gates. Efforts are ongoing to ensure minimal, or no added delays entering the post. More information will be published in *The Signal* by May 1.

Awards ceremony

The installation's quarterly awards ceremony is 8:30 a.m. **April 27** in the lobby of Conrad Hall.

For information, call Linda Means at (706) 791-1871.

Tax center hours

The Fort Gordon Tax Center closes **Monday**. The center is open until 5 p.m. today, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday. For information, call (706) 791-7522.

Days of Remembrance

The Days of Remembrance observation is 1:30 p.m. **Thursday** at Alexander Hall.

Guest speaker is Sylvia Wygoda; the theme this year is Victims and Survivors of the Holocaust, "Legacies of Justice."

For details call the EO Office at (706) 791-2014.

POW speaks

Captain J. Charles Plumb, a former Navy fighter pilot and prisoner of war, will speak at 10 a.m. **Wednesday** at the Augusta VA Medical Center. For information, call (706) 823-1798.

Job fair

The Fort Gordon Job Fair is 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **May 2** at the Army Reserve Center, Building 14401, on 15th Street and Lane Avenue. For details call Eddie Ferguson at (706) 791-2009.

Military child celebration

Child and Youth Services is having a Month of the Military Child celebration from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Saturday** behind the School Age Services building.

Activities include face painting, horseback rides, a moonwalk, free food, prizes and more; all activities are free. For information, call (706) 791-4722.

Baseball great Cal Ripken visits Soldiers

Kristy Davies

Signal staff

Heroes can be different for each person.

Some look to athletes, while others, deservedly, herald the nation's military as heroes. The two groups met face to face here Tuesday.

Famed baseball pro and new owner of the Augusta GreenJackets baseball team Cal Ripken Jr. visited with medical hold Soldiers at Conrad Hall to share baseball stories and answer questions.

"I'm only a kid that grew up and had a dream to play baseball," Ripken said humbly as he continued talking about the value of baseball. "You have those lessons that you use the rest of your life, things like teamwork, discipline, preparation, hard work and work ethic, all those things come naturally and you rely on them to be a team."

"You guys probably know as much about that as I do," said Ripken as he addressed the Soldiers who were recovering here after being injured while serving in Iraq.

The Army has its values and Ripken has the same values in baseball. During his talk, he stood by the importance of values, especially as a par-

ent. Ripken came to Augusta while on a book tour for his new book, "Parenting Young Athletes the Ripken Way."

After he spoke briefly, Ripken took questions from the Soldiers.

Spc. Brent Peters, Company E, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, asked Ripken about his favorite places to play.

"Probably the best and most intense place to play, if your team is good and

the Yankees are good, it's great to play in Yankee Stadium," Ripken said as Soldiers let out "Hooah's" in support of the New York Yankees. "It's intense and you don't have to tell anyone the importance of the pitch."

"You step back and you feel this energy," he said as he described the stadium. "There's an incredible feeling of walking into (the stadium)."

Another Soldier who obviously knew much about Ripken and baseball took Ripken back in time to his last All Star game.

"In your final All Star appearance (third to short)...could you give me a general sense of the electricity that was in that stadium and what was going through your mind?" asked Sgt. Todd Bjerk, Co. E, EAMC.

"In my last year, I desperately wanted to get back to the All Star game," Ripken said, as he explained that he was originally not happy with the decision to move him from third to short.

"In hindsight, it was a wonderful tribute. It was one of those personal moments that was really great, you play the game with the greatest players and you can walk out proudly," he said.



Photo by Tammy Moehlman

Sgt. Terrence Taylor, Company E, Eisenhower Army Medical Center, gets an autograph from Cal Ripken Jr. Tuesday in Conrad Hall.

See Ripken, Page 7

LWN-U will be 'larger than the Signal Center'

Charmain Z. Brackett

Contributing writer

When Brig. Gen. Ronald Bouchard became Fort Gordon's deputy commander, he was given what, for many, could have been a daunting mission.

"We needed to transform and reinvent the Signal Center to make it relevant" for the future, said Bouchard, who took over his post in August.

Early in his tenure at Fort Gordon, he had some briefings on LandWarNet and realized

"that's what we need to be training on. It is the network, and we should be trained in all aspects of it," he said.

"Nowadays, the Army is so much more connected, and training has to be more connected," he said.

After only a few months, the rapid transformation is well underway, said Bouchard, who is pleased at how well things are moving.

"So much has happened, the time has seemed so short," he said. "A sign of something being fun is that you can't see

where the time has gone. I can't believe I've been here eight months."

As the plans for LandWarNet University become a reality, Bouchard is "extremely excited for the Regiment and the Army," he said.

LandWarNet University is vital not only to the Signal Center but to the whole of the Army.

"LandWarNet is larger than the Signal Center. We will be providing training and support to warfighters," he said.

Bouchard recently returned

from Fort Hood, Texas, and the Middle East, where he has been sharing the future with Soldiers.

"I've been getting feedback on the fact that our training is quality training, and they want to know what other things they can do," he said.

What was once considered non-traditional training over the Internet rather than in a classroom is exploding with the Joint Network Node simulator the most downloaded software from the University of Information Technology, which will soon be

LandWarNet University.

"Morale is high" in Kuwait, Afghanistan and Qatar, said Bouchard.

And Signaleers are "trained and ready" to support warfighters in the battle, he said.

LandWarNet University isn't the end, rather it's a beginning.

"We're living a progressive campaign plan. Technology will continue to change, and we will continue to change and adapt to better satisfy the requirements of the Signal Center and the warfighter," he said.

Soldiers do it all during deployment

1st Lt. Sharron Stewart

Special to the Signal

The 20 Soldiers from the 56th Signal Battalion who deployed to Barahona, Dominican Republic, to provide the 130th Engineering Battalion with communications support have done more than "get the message through" as their battalion motto states.

The medical and veterinarian readiness training exercises are part of Combined Joint Task Force New Horizons 2006.

Since Feb. 10 the 252nd Signal Company from here has provided the CJTF with secure and non-secure Internet, telephone and fax services, and has traveled with single channel tactical satellites to each site where the medical and veterinarian clinics are hosted. Members of the United States military are currently working with the Dominican Republic government to provide free medical, dental, civic and humanitarian assistance to the citizens of the Dominican Republic. New Horizons projects are also currently taking place in Honduras, El Salvador and Peru and are a series of humanitarian projects that benefit poor and rural communities.

Since being deployed to the Dominican Republic, the Soldiers have also assisted passing out medication, food, clothes and assisting in many other ways. The medical site

treats from 600 to 800 people daily.

Spc. Roderick Jenkins, a cable wire installer who is also trained to operate the SCTACSAT, has assisted the veterinarians by filling syringes, holding animals and giving them oral medications. Jenkins has helped to care for many animals of the local population including dogs, goats, cats, roosters, cows, horses and pigs.

Spc. Arthur Jones said he prefers going to the medical sites because he enjoys meeting the people of the Dominican Republic, playing with the children and keeping them entertained as they wait their turn to see the doctor.

"We might see it as poverty, but they seem pretty content," Jones said, referring to the lifestyle of those living in the province of Barahona, Dominican Republic. He went on to say a lot of the homes in the community don't have indoor plumbing.

Spc. Douglas Isenhower grew up on a farm and as a result feels comfortable treating animals. He's helped to treat horses, puppies and other farm animals, and helped pass out toothbrushes, candy and toys.

"Their smiles tell us they are happy that we are here (despite the language difference.) I feel good about what we are doing here, it makes me even more proud to be a Soldier," said Spc.



Photo by 1st Lt. Sharron Stewart

Spc. Douglas Isenhower, 56th Signal Battalion, helps a veterinarian administer medication to a horse during Combined Joint Task Force New Horizons 2006. The Soldiers have helped treat more than 12,000 people and 5,000 animals during the exercise, in addition to their Signal duties.

Corey Kelly.

"Those guys did an outstanding job supporting us," said Capt. Erwin Rance, a veterinarian with the 445th Medical Detachment, based in Independence, Mo. The 445th provided veterinarian services for the CJTF to the Barahona community from March 27 to April 6. "You couldn't ask for

better support. Not only did they provide communications, they volunteered to do every type of grunge job that needed to get done," Rance said.

Since July 2005, the 56th has had Soldiers deploy to support 20 missions in such diverse places as the Dominican Republic, Honduras, El Salvador, Columbia, Para-

guay, Ecuador and Bolivia, in addition to having Soldiers deployed to provide continuous support to Operation Iraqi Freedom, and deploying approximately 120 Soldiers to support Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma.

The 252nd Soldiers are scheduled to support the CJTF until June.

Analysis helps with career planning

Master Chief Petty Officer Rick Elrod

Special to the Signal

Analyzing strengths, weakness, opportunities, and threats, a SWOT analysis, is a strategic planning method used in business and marketing that can readily be adapted for use in career planning.

This analysis focuses on both internal and external forces; examining strengths and weaknesses that are in the internal environment and are within an individual's control, and opportunities and threats that are in the external environment and are under the control of someone else. As a career planning tool, it provides a servicemember the data necessary to make informed decisions about their military career.

STRENGTHS are internal aspects that are under a servicemember's control and upon which you may capitalize in planning each stage of your career. Strengths can include work experience, education, technical knowledge, and transferable skills.

Work experience isn't just how long a person has been in the military; it's what is done with that time. Taking the hard jobs nobody else wants, working outside your "comfort zone" by expanding your responsibilities, and developing others in broad military-oriented programs are examples of using experience to your best advantage.

Education is becoming more vital in today's military. Technology advances are changing the scope of every job field, and those that get ahead of the curve of advanced education will see the most success in the future. Job related post-secondary degrees will give you the knowledge and understanding of your field and allow you to lead from the front with ever-increasing technical innovations.

WEAKNESSES are internal negative aspects that are under a servicemember's control and that you can improve to enhance career opportunities and fulfillment. Weaknesses may include a lack of work experience, lack of targeted goals (both personal and professional), lack of self-understanding and of your desires for your future, and weak interpersonal skills.

A lack of work experience and not knowing a lot about your job/specialty are two of

the weaknesses that are most easily overcome. Working diligently with your leaders and your mentor can help you learn more about your job and can maximize the experience you gain in each tour.

OPPORTUNITIES are external conditions that servicemembers do not control, but which you can use to your best advantage. Opportunities include positive trends in your field, availability of education, career milestones, advancement rates, and professional development programs. They present the best way of advancing our careers, increasing our pay, and becoming more professional military members.

The military is undergoing a massive transformation. Mergers and disestablishments of job fields have been commonplace

over the last decade and are poised to continue for the next several years. This creates opportunities for servicemembers in jobs that are going away as well as those in fields that are absorbing new personnel.

Servicemembers that embrace, lead, and respond rapidly to these changes put themselves ahead of the power curve and give themselves the best chance for success.

Opportunities for advanced education have never been greater. Virtually every ship, post, camp, and base in the military has access to college education programs. Servicemembers who pursue educational goals are out in front in the race for success in today's military.

THREATS are external conditions servicemembers don't control, but the effects of

which we can mitigate. Some threats may include negative trends in your field, competition for promotion or advancement in an environment of limited quotas, and limits to professional development.

Many servicemembers see the military's transformation as a threat. By planning ahead, servicemembers can lessen the impact of such a role switch; options tend to be more acceptable if chosen by the individual rather than by the service.

By using the SWOT analysis, servicemembers can develop a road map to capitalize on their strengths and minimize or eliminate their weaknesses. With this knowledge and understanding, they will be poised to take best advantage of opportunities while avoiding, or at least mitigating, threats to career fulfillment.

Soldier lifts boy’s spirit with day of fishing

Kristy Davies
Signal staff

Going fishing can be just another day at the lake for some, but for one boy it was a taste of freedom and a day of fun he may never forget.

Twelve-year-old Domonique Cole, the son of Staff Sgts. Marvin and Charmaine Cole, has been battling a childhood cancer for the past year. In May, Domonique was diagnosed with rhabdomyosarcoma, a cancer that grows in muscle tissue.

Marvin’s supervisor, 1st Sgt. Kenny Newborn, HHC Garrison command first sergeant, met the family at the hospital and made a promise to Domonique.

“I got there and he wasn’t in the room so we waited for a while,” said Newborn. “They brought him in and he was hooked up to a bunch of stuff.

“I said, ‘Hey, little dude, when you get up out of here

one day I’m going to take you fishing.’”

After being released from the hospital, Domonique, his father and Newborn set out on a fishing adventure March 25 on Newborn’s boat.

“It was really cold when we went the last time, but he had on his super gear so we went out there and had a good time,” said Newborn as he laughed. “I don’t think he caught anything, but he had a ball.

“I kept my promise to him and the family,” added Newborn. “And I think that was good motivation for him.”

Domonique has spent six or more days a month undergoing chemotherapy and radiation therapy at the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, with countless overnight stays.

When Domonique was first diagnosed, his father, Marvin, was stationed at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. while his mother, Charmaine,

was assigned to Eisenhower Army Medical Center. Marvin was reassigned here as a compassionate assignment due to his son’s illness.

Charmaine was shocked when she got the news of her son’s diagnosis, but is now thankful for how it has helped bring the family closer.

“Having support from our units really helps keep our family together mentally, because I think if they hadn’t gotten my husband here, I couldn’t do it by myself,” Charmaine said humbly.

Domonique’s little brother, Kamari, 8, has not been negatively affected by Domonique’s condition and hospital stays, according to his parents.

During Domonique’s overnight stays at MCG, the entire family sleeps together closely in a pull out bed.

“It’s a tight squeeze, but it works out,” smiled Marvin.

As the Cole family faced their challenges, Newborn was happy to get to know Domonique and help out the family as much as he could.

“They were an inspiration to me,” said Newborn. “It helped me out because my oldest son passed away back in 1997 from sickle cell anemia, and he loved to fish and stuff like Domonique, and being able to have him with me kind of brought back some good memories.

“They made me feel like a million bucks, too, just being with him.”

Domonique remains high-spirited and energetic. He smiled when Newborn mentioned the fun they had on the fishing trip.

“My favorite part was the boat ride,” Domonique said with a big grin.

“It gets him out of the house,” Marvin said about the fishing trip. “To me, he’s never skipped a beat since day one.

“The only time that you can probably tell there is

something wrong with him is when he’s getting some of the therapy and he gets nausea or whatever,” Marvin continued. “Other than that he stays energetic.”

Marvin and Charmaine have remained hopeful and optimistic in Domonique’s treatment and recovery.

“I knew he was going to be OK,” Marvin said as he shot a smile over at Domonique. “His spirit has always been high and he’s doing great.”

A typical boy, Domonique loves sports, but due to his illness he has not been able to play his favorite sport: football.

Domonique said he looks forward to playing football again once he recovers and heals. His favorite team is the Atlanta Falcons and his favorite player is Michael Vick.

“I love sports,” smiled Domonique. “My favorite position (in football) is running back.”

“I think fishing is one of the sports that he can actually do due to the physical limitations that the doctor put on him,” explained Charmaine. “He has a port in his chest (that must heal). He loves football and this really has changed him because he wasn’t able to play this year.”

Recently, the Cole family received good news from the doctors at MCG about Domonique’s condition.

“After we went fishing (with Newborn) we had a hospital stay,” said Marvin in a hopeful voice. “The head doctor came in to run some tests and said (Domonique) was going into remission.

Charmaine said it will take about a year for Domonique to completely recover.

“I’m just glad they got control of the matter and they’re able to have their son,” said Newborn. “I find joy in seeing them and he’s going to be alright.”



Courtesy photo

1st Sgt. Kenny Newborn, HHC Garrison command, and Domonique Cole, spend a day fishing. Cole has been battling a childhood cancer for the past year.

Audie Murphy Club seeking new members

Bonnie Heater
Signal staff

The Fort Gordon Chapter of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is looking for a few good Soldiers.

The last inductee, Staff Sgt. Brian Graddy, was conscripted into the Fort Gordon Chapter of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club on March 9, 2005. He is an instructor/writer for the 94D (Air Traffic Control System and Sub-Systems Repairer) course on post.

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is a prestigious organization of non-commissioned officers who have demonstrated performance and inherent leadership qualities and abilities characterized by those of Audie Murphy.

The club was formed to honor Audie Murphy, the most decorated combat Soldier of World War II. He was a war hero, movie actor, writer of country-western songs and poet.

“In order to become a member an individual needs to be at least a corporal, and in charge of at least one or more Soldiers, be able to pass the Army Physical Fitness Test

with a score of 265 and a minimum of 80 points in each event,” said Staff Sgt. Natali Christenson, an active Fort Gordon SAMC member.

“In addition, the individual must have gone to company, battalion and brigade boards,” added Christenson. “Finally, you must be recommended from the chain of command.”

“The individual must pass a written examination on general military subjects, map reading and land navigation,” said Graddy. “The NCO must be able to lead and train Soldiers in the areas of basic rifle marksmanship, drill and ceremonies, and physical fitness training.”

“Once you are selected to be a member people will hold you to a higher standard,” said Christenson. “Members of your command will come to you for guidance and community members will ask for your help. Membership will also help you with promotions.”

Noncommissioned officers chosen for the SAMC receive certificates of achievement and membership. The achievement certificates can become part of the Soldier’s personnel files. In addition, new

members receive a membership card and the specially designed medallion, which can be worn during official functions such as military



Photo by Bonnie Heater

Members of Fort Gordon’s Sergeant Audie Murphy Club have their name posted on a plaque in Signal Towers.

balls or SAMC meetings with the Class A or Dress Blue uniform.

The original SAMC club was started at Fort Hood, Texas, early in 1986. The Fort Hood club expanded to include all of III Corps including Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Polk, La; and Fort Carson, Colo.

SAMC spread Army-wide as the result of the Sergeant Major of the Army Conference in 1994.

Command Sgt. Maj. John Holden and Sgt. 1st Class Ozia Scott established the Fort Gordon Chapter in August 1977. The original club membership consisted of three members. Today there are 12 active members, according to Christenson.

Members work on various projects throughout the year. They have held fundraisers to help earthquake and Tsunami victims in Asia last December, and the Hurricane Katrina victims. Members also worked on community projects and Special Olympics, ushered at the general officer change of command ceremony, and prepared Soldiers to meet boards.

This year, according to Christenson, they plan to adopt a highway, help revamp playgrounds in area schools, assist with the “Read Across America” program, volunteer at the Veterans’ homes, augment the installation color guard and conduct fundraisers.

The club conducts chapter meetings on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 11:30 a.m. at the Gordon Club.

“We are always looking for NCOs to become members of our team,” said Christenson. “We want individuals who really want to help other Soldiers and the community and who really have the time it takes to go the extra mile without hesitation.”

“The club is in need of quality members, not quantity,” said Graddy. “I would strongly encourage all superior NCOs to consider membership. SAMC gives individuals a great opportunity to positively impact the lives of many people.”

For more information about membership, contact Christenson at (706) 787-2265 or e-mail ftgordonSAMC@hotmail.com.

Murphy forged name on battleground, in Hollywood

Bonnie Heater
Signal staff

In 2003, it was the 3rd Infantry Division that raced across the desert sands from southern Iraq and liberated Baghdad. The liberation marked one more glory for the Marne Legend.

In World War II, the 3rd ID was considered one of the Army’s premier assault units. The unit fought in northern Africa and across Europe.

Soldiers in the 3rd ID earned two Medals of Honor during World War I, and 36 more during World War II. Among the award recipients was the most decorated Soldier in World War II, 2nd Lt. Audie L. Murphy.

After being refused enlistment in the Navy, Marines and the Army Paratroopers

for being too small (5 feet 5 inches) and underweight (110 pounds), Murphy joined the U.S. Army a few days after his 18th birthday.

The son of a poor Texas sharecropper completed basic training at Camp Wolters, Texas, and advanced training at Fort Meade, Md. He was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 15th Regiment, 3rd ID.

Murphy began his service as a private before he rose to the rank of staff sergeant. Later he was given a battlefield commission as a second lieutenant and company commander for his courage and leadership.

On Jan. 26, 1945 near Holtzwihr, France, six tanks and waves of infantry attacked the company. Murphy ordered his men to withdraw to prepared positions in the woods, while he remained forward at

his command post and continued to give fire directions to the artillery by telephone.

Behind him, to his right, one Army tank destroyer received a direct hit and began to burn. Its crew withdrew to the woods. Murphy continued to direct artillery fire, which killed large numbers of the enemy.

With the enemy tanks abreast of his position, Murphy climbed on the burning tank destroyer, which was in danger of blowing up at any moment, and used its .50-caliber machine gun.

Murphy was alone and exposed to German fire from three sides, but his fire killed dozens of Germans and caused their infantry to waver. The enemy tanks, losing infantry support, began to fall back. For an hour, the Ger-

mans tried every available weapon to eliminate him, but Murphy continued to hold his position and wiped out a squad, which was trying to creep up unnoticed on his right flank. Germans reached as close as 10 yards, only to be mowed down by his fire.

Murphy received a leg wound, but ignored it and continued the single-handed fight until his ammunition was gone. Murphy then made his way to his company, refused medical attention, and organized his men in a counterattack, which forced the Germans to withdraw.

Because of his actions, he earned 33 military awards, citations, and decorations, including every medal for valor that America gives, as well as three French and one Belgium medal.

Murphy, who was orphaned at 16 years old, was discharged from the Army on Sept. 21, 1945. Actor James Cagney invited Murphy to Hollywood in September 1945, when he saw Murphy’s photo on the cover of Life Magazine.

In the 15 years that Murphy spent in Hollywood, he made 44 films, mostly westerns.

One of his films was based on his 1949 autobiography To Hell and Back. The book became a national bestseller and the film grossed almost \$10 million during its initial release. It held the record as Universal’s highest-grossing motion picture until 1975, when Steven Spielberg’s “Jaws” eclipsed it.

After the war, Murphy suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and was

plagued by insomnia and depression. He publicly requested the government study the emotional impact war has on veterans, and advocated extending health care benefits to address PTSD and other mental health problems of returning war vets.

While on a business trip on May 28, 1971, he was killed at the age of 46. A private plane flying in fog and rain crashed in the side of a mountain near Roanoke, Va. Murphy’s body was recovered two days later, on Memorial Day.

On June 7, 1971, he was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va.

Today, his memory is preserved in the elite Sergeant Audie Murphy Clubs. Today it exists in nine countries.

Sexual assault awareness, prevention

J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

WASHINGTON – The Army, in conjunction with the observation of April's National Sexual Assault Awareness Month, is highlighting its Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program.

"We will use this opportunity to reaffirm our position that sexual assault will not be tolerated in any way, shape or form, and that sexual assault is a criminal offense which degrades mission readiness by devastating service members' ability to work effectively as a team," said Carol Collins, program manager of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program.

Lt. Col. Carla Reed, former program branch chief, recently returned from a tour of duty that studied this program in action, including in the OIF and OEF theaters.

"As we took the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program's policies and messages to the commanders and Soldiers in the field, we conveyed the message that one sexual assault is too many, and that this crime has no place in the Army."

The Program began in September 2004, as part of the Army's effort to eradicate sexual assault through training, prevention, education and awareness programs. In cases where prevention measures fail, victims should be assured that a system is in place to provide responsive, caring support, while holding offenders ac-

countable.

"Upon entry into the Army, Soldiers will be trained in sexual assault prevention and response, and within all professional military education courses throughout their careers," Reed said.

"We have requirements for annual awareness training within units, as well as during changes

of station."

"With regard to responding to sexual assaults, the Army has a system in place whereby all those who provide support are integrated so they're all talking to one another on behalf of the victim."

"The first resource available to victims is 'victim advocacy,'" added Reed. "Servicemembers within units, called 'victim advocates,' can assist and support by explaining the process for accessing services, as well as escort the victim to talk to criminal investigators and to medical treatment appointments."

Army leaders are being trained about their responsibilities, and to ensure they are fostering organizational climates that encourage service members to treat each other with dignity and respect.

Sexual assault is one of the most under-reported crimes in the U.S., and the same holds true within the military's branches.

"Many victims don't feel free to report sexual assaults because they often think they've done something wrong. Often, they feel guilty about having been in the situation in which the assault occurred, so they choose

not to report it. They also feel embarrassed or shame, or that their careers may be negatively impacted so they suffer in silence and try to handle the situation on their own," Reed said.

Within the Sexual Assault Prevention Response Program, our goal is to provide a safe haven, and foster an environment that encourages more victims to come forward to seek the help they need and deserve.

"Sexual assault is something the Department of Defense and the Army take very seriously. Our Army is a values-based institution; one in which one sexual assault is one too many," said Reed."

The Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program reinforces the Army's commitment to eliminate incidents of sexual assault through a comprehensive policy that centers on awareness and prevention, training and education, victim advocacy, response, reporting, and accountability.

Army policy promotes sensitive care and confidential reporting for victims of sexual assault and accountability for those who commit these crimes.

RESPONSE PROGRAM GOALS

- Create a climate that minimizes sexual assault incidents, which impact Army personnel, Army civilians, and family members, and, if an incident should occur, ensure that victims and subjects are treated according to Army policy.

- Create a climate that encourages victims to report incidents of sexual assault without fear.

- Establish sexual assault prevention training and awareness programs to educate Soldiers.

- Ensure sensitive and comprehensive treatment to restore victims' health and well-being.

- Ensure leaders understand their roles and responsibilities regarding response to sexual assault victims, thoroughly investigate allegations of sexual assault, and take appropriate administrative and disciplinary action.

Feedback...

What more can be done to support youth on post?

By Larry Edmond



Parents need to spend more time in the activities that the children participate in...whether it's ballet, basketball, whatever. Quality time spent with the kids helping them grow is important.

Franklin Paine
Battle Command Battle Lab



I have only been here one week. We are still unpacking and don't really know what is here. I sure hope there is a good pre-school program.

Kelly Green
Military spouse



Having some sort of constructive outlet like the youth center is important to give kids things to do with their time. Expanded youth center activities are always helpful.

Staff Sgt. Emanuel Henderson
Co. A, 82nd Division Special Troops



We need more summer activities, like summer day camps and things like that.

Sgt. Shellie Johnson
518th Tactical Intelligence Network



There could be more sports activities for younger youth, the four, five and six year olds.

Tiffany Miller
Military spouse



I didn't know they offered anything for youth on the post. There should be better flow of information about things that are available.

Sonya Olsen
Military spouse

Downrange

'Haircut'

By Jeffery Hall



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Military artifacts get facelift

Bonnie Heater

Signal staff

(This is the first of four part series on the restoration of military equipment at Fort Gordon.)

Several pieces of military equipment received a major overhaul at Fort Gordon at a cost of about \$59,000. Most of the pieces are located at Heritage Park near the Fort Gordon Dinner Theater.

Funding for the restoration was provided by end of year unfinanced requirement monies, according to Robert Anzuoni, Signal Corps Museum director. “We hope to get a grant from a private foundation to complete the project,” he said.

“These items being restored are historical artifacts and are being preserved as part of our Army heritage,” explained Anzuoni.

“The equipment, which is owned by the U.S. Army Center of Military History, is hand receipted to the Signal Corps Museum,” added Anzuoni. “The Army historical collection forms a part of our national heritage, and, as such, it belongs to the American public to view and learn about the material culture of our armed forces.”

The M48 Patton Main Tank was the first of the pieces restored during 2005. It took roughly four months, according to Anzuoni.

Gen. Omar Bradley expressed the importance of the tank to the Army years ago.

He said, “What the ship is to the Navy; what the airplane is to the Air Force, the tank is to the Army.”

The main battle tanks were named after Gen. George S. Patton, commander of the U.S. Third Army during World War II. He was one of

the earliest American advocates for the use of the tanks in battle. In fact, at the onset of the United States’ entry into World War I., Brig. Gen. John Pershing promoted Patton to the rank of captain and assigned him to command the newly formed U.S. Tank Corps. He remained there until the Corps was abolished in 1920.

Patton organized the American tank school in Bourg, France, and trained the first 500 American tankers. He had 345 tanks by the time he took the brigade into the Meuse-Argonne Operation in September 1918.

The M46, M47, M48 and M60 Patton were the U.S. Army’s principal main battle tanks of the Korean and Vietnam Wars. However, they did not play a major role in Vietnam because the soggy Vietnamese terrain limited their range. The tanks did provide valuable support to American forces in the south, securing contested roadways and engaging enemy troops. In addition, it provided adequate shelter for its crew from small arms and mines.

The M48 replaced the M47 Patton tank in 1953. Chrysler built about 12,000 M48s between 1952 and 1959.

The tank carried a 90 mm gun, a coaxial .30-caliber machine gun, and a .50-caliber machine gun mounted on the commander’s cupola, according to Anzuoni.

“The M48A1 and M48A2 are distinguished by the addition of an anti-aircraft turret to the commander’s cupola,” said Anzuoni. “The M48A2 also contained a gasoline injection engine which increased speed and range.”

The early designs were powered by gasoline engines which gave the tank a short operating range and were prone to catching fire when hit, earning it the unflattering nickname Ronson after the popular brand of cigarette lighter. This version, which was considered unfit and unreliable for service, saw combat in various Arab-Israeli conflicts.

In 1959, American M48s were upgraded to the M48A3 model, which featured a diesel power plant.

After further modifications, the diesel-powered M48 carried a 90mm turret-mounted main gun, capable of rotating to fire in any direction, as well as a 7.62 mm machine gun and a .50-caliber machine gun.

The M48 vehicle had a crew of four. It was made up of three compartments: the driver’s compartment, the fighting compartment where the gunner, loader, and tank commander fought, and the engine compartment. Above the main gun was a one million candle-power xenon searchlight. This light had both a white light and an infrared mode. It was boresighted with the main gun and gunsights so that it could be used to illuminate a target at night.

By the mid-1970s, the M48A5 upgrade was developed to allow the vehicle to carry the heavier 105mm gun. The modification brought the M48s up to the speed with the M60 tanks. By this time, most of the M48s were put into reserve service, and by the mid-1990s, the M48s were phased out of the Army.



Photo by Bonnie Heater

Stryker troops deploy, train in Korea

Spc. Timothy Dinneen

Army News Service

RODRIGUEZ RANGE, Korea – Stryker Brigade Soldiers from Fort Lewis, Wash., recently deployed to Korea for a weeklong Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration exercise.

The relatively new unit used the exercise to get more familiar with themselves and their new vehicles.

“This is a new unit so we’re developing the vehicles to work well with the infantry units. I get to develop a new crew that hasn’t been together and with the new lifecycle I’ll see the team’s improvement over a three-year period,” said Sgt. 1st Class William Linaris.

The training included platoon day fires, and day and night fires for squads. The Soldiers also practiced suppressing the enemy, clearing buildings, and search and rescue operations.

“The best part of the training is getting muddy. I like the wheeled vehicle. It’s not a tank; it’s meant for us,” said Pfc. Stephen Horn.

“The purpose of the mission is to show that we can deploy a highly lethal, agile, combat and quick-strike force to support the alliance between the Republic of Korea and the United States,” said Maj. Mike Katona,

unit operations officer.

“This kind of training is important at all kinds of levels. At our level, we’re standing up

Stryker Brigade team number four. We formed about a year ago, and we’ve gone through new equipment training and

fielding. We’ve gone from individual level, squad level and now we’re at platoon and company level,” Katona said.

SOLDIERS LIKE STRYKER’S MANEUVERABILITY

The Stryker vehicle allows infantry units to move with stealth and speed. It provides maximum maneuverability with the protection of a tank, saddled with a .50 caliber machine-gun and Mark 19. Able to hold 11 Soldiers, the Stryker offers a clear, large-screen view of the battlefield.

“The vehicle itself is unique because they developed it to bridge the gap between the actual light and heavy concept,” said Linaris. “A lot more maneuverable than most tracked vehicles, the Stryker can go places the Bradley or other tracked vehicles can’t get to.”

On June 1, the unit will reflag as the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division.

Until then “we’ll continue with company level training to battalion level training and then brigade. We’re in a glide path to success,” said Katona.

“We have true professionals, these guys want to be here and do the right things. They are working extremely hard to make sure everything comes together,” he added.

(Dinneen writes for the 2nd Infantry Division Public Affairs Office.)



Photo by Spc. Timothy Dinneen

Stryker Brigade Soldiers from Fort Lewis, Wash., deployed to Korea for the Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration exercise. The exercise gave the Soldiers a chance to familiarize themselves with each other and their vehicles.

NSC debuts newest science van

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

The close ties between the Army and the National Science Center aren't always visible to those in the Augusta area, except on Tuesday.

A new brightly colored 18-wheeler with the National Science Center's logo on it made its debut at Augusta's Immaculate Conception School.

"This is brand new. Immaculate Conception is our proving ground," said Cal Marschall, who along with Sgt. 1st Class Vincent Newsome, will travel the country teaching science principles to students in the mobile classroom.

"This is the Army's truck," said Marschall. "It will be kept at Fort Knox."

The Army supplies the vehicle and the manpower while those at the National Science Center, which is headquartered at Fort Discovery, provide the know-how of getting the science and the fun behind it to the students.

Another 18-wheeler is currently in New Mexico.

There was a second mobile discovery classroom on the road until about 18 months ago when it finally wore out, said Ollie Washington, who is part of the National Science Center crew.

On April 11, the team tested the features of the new vehicle. There were a few glitches such as an exhibit which demonstrates how sound waves can cause glass to bend which didn't quite work, but otherwise it went well, according to officials.

Marschall said the new trailer is much improved over

the other one.

"The floors don't bend up. You can raise and lower them a lot safer. There's no push bar on the doors so there is no way of the doors locking (and people being trapped inside). It has better hydraulics," he said.

Newsome said the new vehicle has more room for wheelchair accessibility.

Visiting the mobile discovery classroom was Augusta's Mayor Deke Copenhaver.

"I've not seen a discovery van, but I'm very familiar with their mission. This is such an asset to the community and an asset to the United States with trucks going all over the country," said Copenhaver, whose father, Bill Copenhaver, helped found Fort Discovery.

The new van made several stops in Augusta this week.

It and its crew will head to South Carolina, North Carolina and Washington, D.C. before the school year ends.



Photos by Charmain Brackett

(Above) An Immaculate Conception student demonstrates how electricity conducts in a plasma ball on the National Science Center's newest mobile discovery classroom Tuesday. (Below) The newest science center on wheels made its debut in Augusta.



Earth Day events slated for weekend

Charmain Z. Brackett
Contributing writer

A giant earth ball, a rock climbing wall and an obstacle course are among the many free activities at North Augusta's Kids Earth Day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at North Augusta's Lions Memorial Field.

"It's shaping up to be the best so far," said Allison May with the city of North Augusta and one of the event's coordinators. "We have 30 exhibitors, the most ever and several new exhibitors."

Children can plant flowers and see some reptiles and snakes up-close. There will be games, and many of the exhibitors will have free items for the children to take

with them.

A special guest at this year's event is Okefenokee Joe, who was featured in several swamp-related programs on Georgia Public Broadcasting in the 1990s.

All of the activities at Kids Earth Day are free and open to the public.

"There is a good blend of information with activities. They are learning, but kids are not aware they are learning," May said.

In case of rain, the event will be moved to the Riverview Park Activities Center.

For more information, call (803) 441-4311 or (803) 441-4224.

CIVIL WAR HERITAGE DAY

Re-enactors with the Sons of the Confederacy will be demonstrating period weapons and displaying other Civil War artifacts at the Augusta Canal Interpretive Center at Enterprise Mill on Greene Street from 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.

The Confederate Powderworks on the banks of the Augusta Canal made most of the gunpowder used during the Civil War.

Petersburg boat tours along the canal will highlight Augusta's role in the Civil War. As the boats pass the Confederate Powderworks, there will be live fire demonstrations. For more information, call (706) 823-0440 ext. 4.

Jazz

Jazz in the Garden will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Columbia County Amphitheatre. Admission is \$5 for ages 11 and older. For information, go to www.gardencityjazz.com.

Ripken

From Page 1

Having a sports celebrity come to post was quite a memorable experience for the Soldiers as they stood in line afterward to get autographs and their photo taken with Ripken.

"He's a great guy and a great baseball player," said Bjerk as he held three baseballs Ripken signed. "It's al-

ways nice to meet somebody who paved the way for a fair game of baseball. He's probably one of the most positive role models in baseball I've seen."

Being able to visit troops helps to keep Ripken humble and focused

"I've always grown up in a community minded family and

people are the most important thing, and here in Augusta, (the military) are part of the fabric of the community," he said. "They're the real heroes here. They're the ones doing the work that helps preserve our life and our liberty, things that we sometimes take for granted."

"It's great to stop whatever

you're doing and say 'thank you,'" he said, "and acknowledge the importance of what they do."

Delivering supplies for Afghans in need

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Rautio
Army News Service

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – For the neediest citizens of this mountainous country, humanitarian and relief supplies often arrive in bundles attached to parachutes and dropped from Coalition aircraft to the ground.

Members of the 647th Quartermaster Company, made up of platoons from Fort Bragg, N.C., and Fort Campbell, Ky., have prepared 82 such bundles – with 45 tons of supplies – since arriving here Feb. 12.

The Soldiers are known as riggers because of their mission: rigging the bundles to parachutes and preparing them to withstand the exit from an aircraft, the descent and finally the impact with the ground.

They also are responsible for making sure they have enough supplies to build each bundle. For a winter bundle, that means blankets, shoes, sugar, stoves and coal; for a survival bundle, that means tool and hygiene

kits, beans, rice, cooking oil, salt, tarpaulins and more.

BUNDLES TAKE TIME
Bundles are built on request, based on when the aircraft will be taking off, explained Staff Sgt. Raul Mercado, a rigger deployed from Fort Campbell. Each bundle takes about 20 minutes to build.

“A container delivery system, or CDS, is used to prepare the supplies for the air-drop,” explained Chief Warrant Officer Cortez Frazier.

The supplies are wrapped up with a cargo harness and secured to a skid board. Once a bundle is secure a parachute is attached to its top.

A regular cargo parachute, 64 feet in diameter, or a high-velocity parachute, 26 feet in diameter, may be used. The type of chute depends on the durability of the supplies and the size of the drop zone, said Sgt. 1st Class Tommie Selmon, also from Fort Campbell.

Before a bundle is loaded onto an aircraft, it must be inspected by a member of the aircrew and a member of the rigging team. This “joint air in-

spection” ensures that the bundles have been properly rigged, Mercado said.

Once a bundle is on an aircraft, the crew and riggers make sure it can exit the aircraft properly, and then they attach its static line to the anchor line cable. A static line pulls out the pilot parachute, which in turn deploys the main chute when the bundle leaves the aircraft, Mercado said.

Upon landing, Coalition troops on the ground break the bundles down and distribute the contents. The parachute and other gear used to drop the supplies are returned to Bagram for future use, Mercado said.

While the riggers of the 647th don’t get to see the results of their work, they know they are making a contribution to rebuilding Afghanistan.

“It feels real good,” said Sgt. Harvey Johnson, from Fort Campbell. “I am very confident in everyone doing (his or her) job and everyone is happy to be here.”

(Rautio writes for the Joint Logistics Command Public Affairs.)



Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Lance Cheung

Senior Airman Argenis Sambois carries a box full of toys, candy and school supplies for the children he will see at the Radhwaniya Medical Clinic Outreach Program. Several times a week, volunteers meet at the facility on the edge of the Baghdad International Airport, and support the medical needs of civilians.

Medics, volunteers meet Iraqis’ medical needs

Staff Sgt. Kevin Nichols
Air Force Print News

SATHER AIR BASE, Iraq – Several times a week, medics from the 447th Expeditionary Medical Squadron take a break from their normal “hustle and bustle” work schedule at the clinic to help local Iraqis who feel under the weather.

The medics head out close to the wire to see these patients at the Radhwaniya Medical Clinic Outreach Program building. Tech. Sgt. Michelle Du Lac picked up her stethoscope to listen to a young boy’s chest who hasn’t been feeling too well lately.

“Can you tell him to breathe hard again for me?” she asked the interpreter.

The medical room she and the other medics see the children in is more like a small office stocked with some medical supplies and certain medicines. The building sits just inside the base perimeter fence. These are the days for the medics who can break away from the base’s clinic that they look forward to.

“I’m a better medic for being here,” Du Lac said.

While the medics go in the back to prepare for more patients, volunteers like Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Newton play football with the children waiting for their checkup.

“I love children,” Newton said, as he bounced up and down on one end of a seesaw in the backyard of the clinic building.

“I wanted to come out and give to the Iraqi community. I’ve wanted to do this since September of last year,” said Newton, who is deployed from the 100th Security Forces Squadron at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England. He hopes by volunteering his time, the children will see him more as a person and less like an Airman at war.

“This (volunteering) is more of a humanitarian mission than a war-time mission,” Newton said. “They can see us (Americans) more humane than seen on the news.”

The risk that these Air Force doctors and volunteers take is considerable with the perimeter fence right behind the building where they care for the Iraqi patients. But they feel the benefits and caring they bring to the Iraqi community far outweigh that risk.

“Say ahh!” Du Lac takes a look at a child’s throat; red and irritated. To this little boy, Du Lac makes an impression with her tongue depressor, both as a military professional and someone who cares about his well being.

During their little “break from the norm,” Du Lac and the other medics see about 20 to 30 patients a day while at the same time providing a friendship that may just be the best medicine of all.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Rautio

Sgt. Juan Felix, a rigger with the 647th Quartermaster Company based at Fort Campbell, Ky., pushes a pallet into place aboard a C-130 Hercules on Bagram Airfield.

Family of AR Soldier receives Silver Star

Pfc. Jennifer L. Sierra
Army News Service

JOINT FORCES TRAINING BASE, Los Alamitos, Calif. – One hero’s courage under fire was honored April 8 as the 63rd Regional Readiness Command’s Maj. Gen. Paul E. Mock presented the Silver Star to Jim and Barbara Witkowski, parents of Sgt. James Witkowski.

Witkowski, 32, was killed in action Oct. 26, 2005, during a combat logistics patrol near Ashraf, Iraq. Witkowski’s unit, the 729th Transportation Company, an Army Reserve unit of the 63rd RRC, came under attack while conducting a 23-vehicle convoy to deliver building materials to another unit.

Maj. Sean Cannon, the 729th company commander at the time of the attack, depicted the attack as being very complex, unfolding with improvised explosive devices, small arms fire, and a combination of hand and rocket-propelled grenades.

WITKOWSKI SAVES FELLOW SOLDIERS’ LIVES

Entering a kill zone of approximately one mile, the convoy started receiving small arms fire. As IEDs exploded on both sides of the highway, in-

surgents rushed the convoy, shooting RPGs and lobbing hand-grenades.

Meanwhile, Witkowski held insurgents down with suppressive fire from the .50-caliber weapon atop his vehicle. When a grenade landed in his turret, Witkowski continued to engage the enemy amidst incoming fire. Doing so, he absorbed the full brunt of the explosion, saving the lives of three other Soldiers in the vehicle.

If Witkowski had not taken

that action, “all four of them would have died without a doubt,” said Master Sgt. John Souza, of Watertown, Mass. Souza was also in the ambushed convoy.

Witkowski’s father, a Vietnam veteran from the 101st Airborne Division, swelled with emotion as Mock pinned the prestigious medal on his chest in his son’s behalf.

“This shows that he was a much better person than I was. I’m just so very proud of him,” said the senior Witkowski.



Photo by Pfc. Jennifer L. Sierra

Maj. Gen. Paul E. Mock, commander of the 63rd Regional Readiness Command, speaks words of encouragement to Jim and Barbara Witkowski after presenting their son’s Silver Star.

FAMILY, FRIENDS HONOR WITKOWSKI’S MEMORY

Many of Witkowski’s fellow Soldiers described him as ever-optimistic and likable.

“He loved life, he lived the day as it came,” Souza said. “There was never a dull moment with him; he saw the light side of everything.”

Sgt. Chad Fisher of the 394th Adjutant General Company and Witkowski’s childhood friend, heard about Witkowski’s death while deployed in Kuwait. Through wishes of the Witkowski family, Fisher was appointed as official escort, accompanying Witkowski’s body back to Arizona.

“I felt honored to have been chosen to escort him home,” said Fisher.

The Silver Star medal recognizes gallantry in action and is the military’s third highest medal for bravery and courage. Witkowski is only the second Army Reserve Soldier serving in OIF to receive it, according to Army officials.

“This honorable and selfless act exemplifies the dedication that Witkowski had toward his country,” the Mock said.

(Sierra writes for the 302nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.)

Ionospheric forecasts improve warfighter communication efficiency

Michael Kleiman
Air Force Print News

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M.—During specific times of the year over the Earth’s equatorial region, turbulence in the ionosphere, known as scintillation, causes extended degradation for Department of Defense navigation and communication satellites. But a sensor package installed at each of 14 locations worldwide has helped reduce the impact of this naturally occurring disruption.

Developed by the Air Force Research Laboratory’s space vehicles directorate, the Scintillation Network Decision Aid, or SCINDA, receives data on disturbances in the upper atmosphere from Global Positioning System satellites and geostationary radio beacons to predict when and where potential communication interruptions will occur.

“The SCINDA is a regional nowcasting tool to assist researchers and users of space-based communication and navigation systems,” said Keith Groves, program manager in the directorate’s Ionospheric Impacts on Radio Frequency Systems office. “It is also a scientific collaboration to characterize and forecast low-latitude scintillation.”

Evolving from a research project started in 1994 on the formation of low-latitude ionospheric disturbances, the SCINDA provides real-time information, updated every 30 minutes, to the Air Force Weather Agency at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb., and the Communication/Navigation Outage Forecasting System Data Center at Hanscom AFB,

Mass. The data is used to predict satellite transmission disruptions and seasonal behavior of the cosmic storms.

From September through March, low latitude regions in the American sector can experience the intense effects of scintillation, which normally transpire at night within 20 degrees of the Earth’s magnetic equator. This area comprises more than one-third of the world’s surface. Mid-latitude regions, such as the continental United States, also can be affected by scintillation during magnetic storm events.

Although the SCINDA has become operational at numerous locations worldwide, coverage gaps have existed from Hawaii westward through Southeast Asia and extending almost to the Middle East. With the installation of a sensor site in September 2005 on Kiritimati Island, also referred to as Christmas Island, in the Republic of Kiribati, a significant obstacle to scintillation forecasting was removed.

Discovered by Capt. James Cook on Dec. 24, 1777, Christmas Island, located 1,160 miles south of Honolulu, Hawaii, serves as a strategic geophysical location because the equator crosses near the South Pacific landmass.

“Christmas Island is important geophysically and operationally,” Groves said. “It is a unique location that allows us to characterize ionospheric turbulence. AFRL receives the scintillation data from the site via Iridium telephone link and then passes it on to AFWA and the C/NOFS Data Center.”

Consisting of two ship containers, a stand-alone optical system and a generator, the



U.S. Air Force photo

The Scintillation Network Decision Aid antenna, located on Kiritimati Island (Christmas Island), Republic of Kiribati, monitors geostationary satellite communication signals to determine the effects of ionospheric turbulence.

Christmas Island SCINDA station, staffed by one contractor, occupies an old National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration radar site. Planned SCINDA network expansion does not stop at Christmas Island. In the next two years, an additional 10 to 12 research posts will become operational.

By the end of 2006, approximately six facilities will open on the African continent, and another three SCINDA data locations will become operational in India. United Nations officials helped with the establishment of the stations in Africa through their Basic Space Science Initiative Program dedicated to the International Heliophysical Year in 2007. These sites will also be funded by the AFWA.

“The objective of the SCINDA network expansion is to characterize the global behavior of the equatorial ionosphere in time to support users during the next solar maximum (several years of increased space weather activity includ-

ing scintillation, solar flares, and coronal mass ejections, which begins in 2009).” Groves said. “Our goal is getting the global SCINDA network completed in the next couple of years to characterize the solar maximum for the first time.”

With the SCINDA network predicting scintillation occurrences in real time, the warfighter now has the capability for using ultra high frequency satellite communication quality products for reliable operations, which enhances survivability in the combat environment. Nonetheless, scintillation research serves as the primary driver for the future of SCINDA.

“Research input is our foremost focus,” Groves said. “Our objectives are to understand and get information on the dynamics of large-scale ionospheric disturbances and their impacts on the DoD’s command, control, and communications system.”

(Courtesy of Air Force Materiel Command News Service.)

Space superiority a priority for Air Force

Senior Airman J.G. Buzanowski
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — They almost scrapped the mission. An Air Force weather officer and the satellites at his disposal talked them out of it.

It was a cold night in March 2003. With rain and low visibility, more than 1,000 Soldiers aboard 16 C-17 Globemaster IIIs waited to either go on their parachute mission into Northern Iraq, or call it a night. The weather officer, Capt. John Roberts, said they’d be able to fly.

Time ticked by. Snow began to fall. An hour out from the drop point, the mission was still questionable. Roberts, armed with his eyes in the sky, predicted the window they needed and the mission continued. Within 15 minutes, the clouds parted. The jump went as planned.

Roberts’ success proves space is an important part of military operations.

The Air Force is committed to improving its space systems, said Dr. Ronald Sega, undersecretary of the Air Force, in front of House and Senate Armed Services subcommittees recently.

“Satellites are an advantage we have over adversaries,” Sega said. “We have to ensure we’re getting those capabilities to the warfighters, whether it’s for communication, information or any of the other uses our space weapon systems offer.”

Dr. Donald Kerr, director of the National

Reconnaissance Office, attended one of the testimonies. The Air Force and its satellite network have been a vital part of their operations since the NRO was established 50 years ago, he told congressmen.

“We have a long history of working with the Air Force,” Kerr said. “The Air Force provides more than 50 percent of the workforce at the NRO. Together we’re working to provide real-time support to warfighters and policy makers.”

Because satellites are so important to the defense of the nation, Air Force leaders hope to upgrade older systems.

“As we look to the future, we are examining the ability to use smaller, lower cost satellites that could be employed rapidly in response to the needs of the combatant commanders,” said Lt. Gen. Frank Klotz, vice commander of Air Force Space Command. “Supporting the joint warfighter is at the heart of everything we do in Air Force Space Command. For that reason, it is more important than ever to maintain our technological advantage.”

To further that end, the Air Force seeks to make space acquisition the model for all of the Defense Department, Klotz said.

Members of the committees shared concerns about rising costs for not only the research and development of new systems, but also putting those systems to actual use.

“Space systems have been prone to cost overruns,” Sega admitted. “But as we apply the lessons learned from acquiring past systems, we’re able to plan more effec-

tively with our future purchases.”

Lt. Gen. Michael A. Hamel, commander of the Space and Missile Systems Center, echoed those remarks.

“Space asset acquisition is a team sport and we’re all working together to ensure we manage cost and risk,” the general said. “By testing systems early on and working directly with the folks who build them and the folks who will use them, we’ll be better able to put new systems into use faster and more cost efficient.”

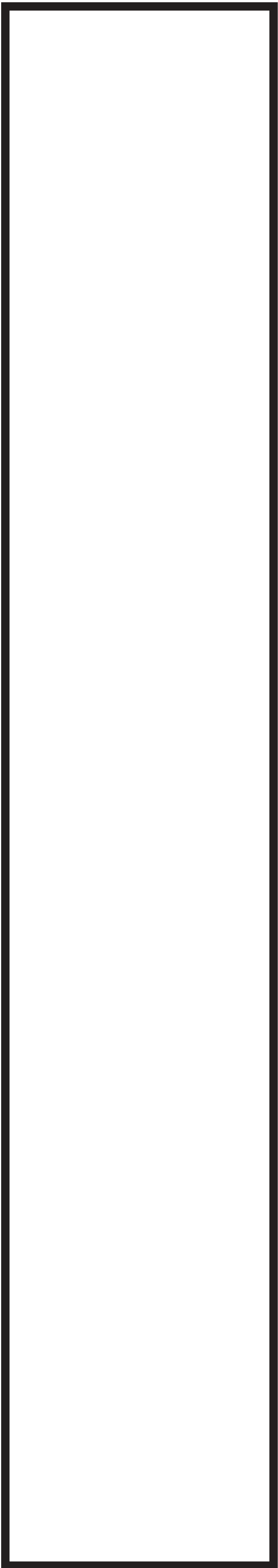
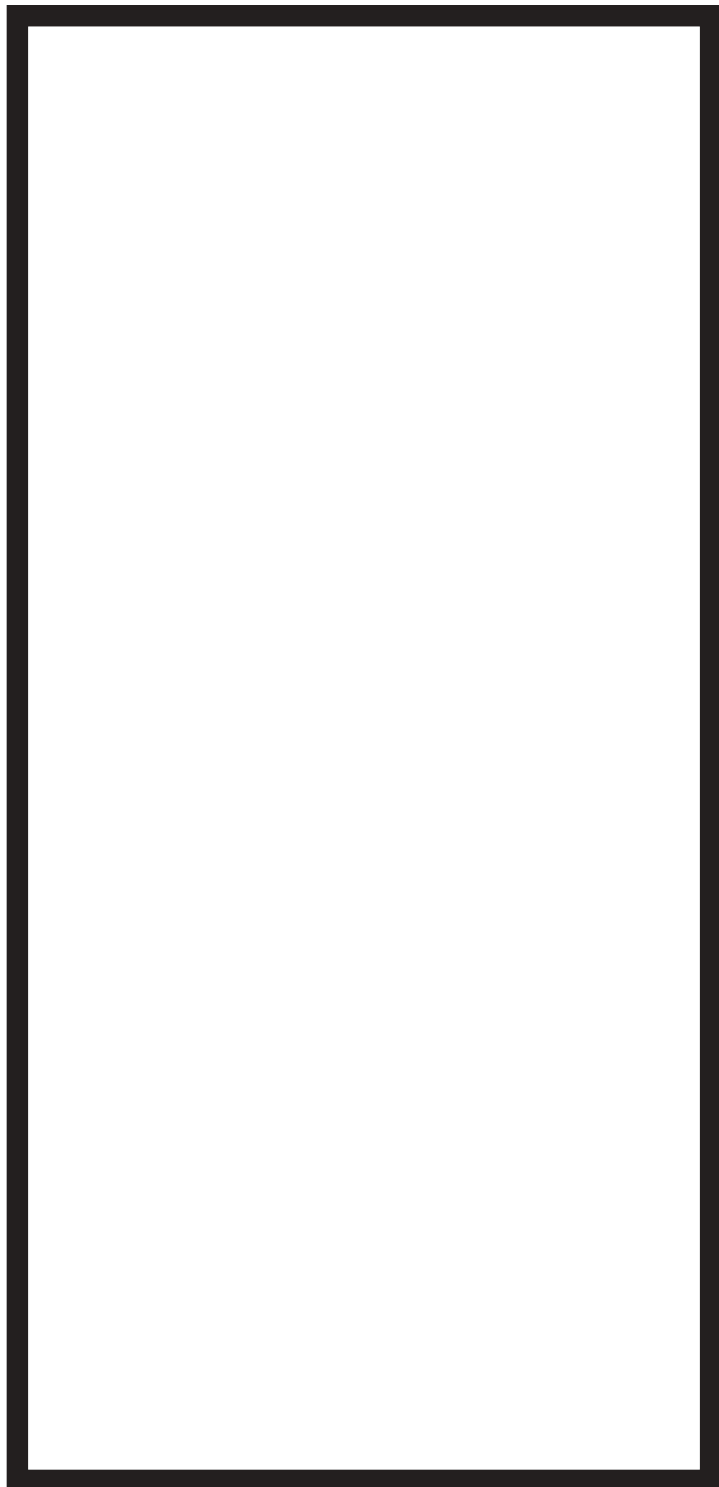
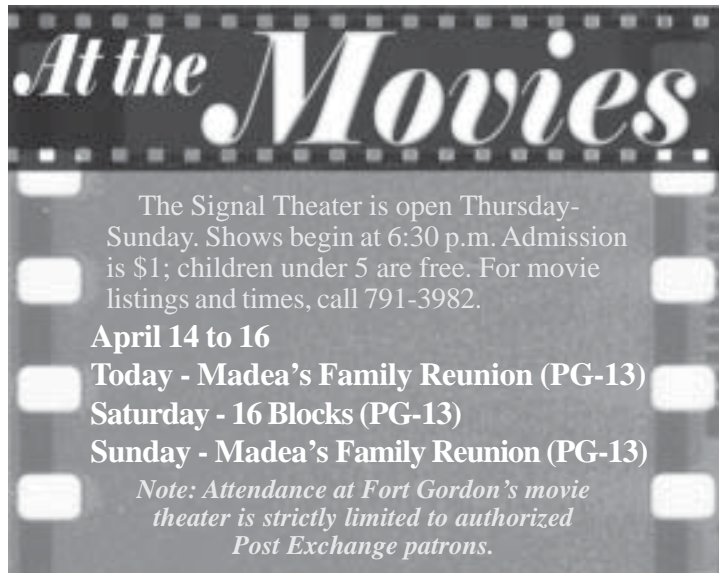
As a result, the Air Force is examining several avenues that will more effectively change the way space is used.

One of those strategies is to use smaller satellites with the latest technology. They’ll be ready for launch in “hours, not months” and will provide the Air Force and those who rely on satellite information to address 21st century defense challenges by modernizing critical capabilities such as:

- Global strike
- Navigation
- Weather
- Communication
- Missile warning
- Surveillance

“The U.S. depends upon the Air Force to supply critical space capabilities,” Sega said. “We are increasing our focus on ensuring our assets will meet operational requirements in a growing and changing threat environment. We should be able to provide significant new capabilities quicker and be more cost effective.”

Applications for the camps are due **May 15** and available at **<http://www.operationpurple.org/>**.



Sports

Sports UPDATE

Ten-miler tryouts

Tryouts for the Fort Gordon Army Ten-Miler team are **April 28**. The race is Oct. 8 in Washington, D.C. The race is the largest 10 mile race in the United States.

Tryouts are open to men and women, military and civilian. For information, call Ralph Gaines at (706) 791-6024.

AUSA golf tournament

The Fort Gordon Chapter of the Association of the United States Army will host its annual golf tournament **today** at the Gordon Lakes Golf Course.

Tee time for the four person 18-hole Lauderdale event is 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided starting at 11 a.m. Cost is \$50 for non-members of GLGC and \$40 for GLGC members. For information call (706) 791-6429.

Kids golf tourney

The Second Annual Kids Restart golf tournament will be held at Gordon Lakes Golf Course **April 28**. Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m.

The cost is \$40 and includes 18 holes of golf, cart and food. Deadline for registration is **April 26**. For information, call (706) 828-0180, ext. 0.

Paintball course

The paintball course behind The Courtyard is open 3 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday, each day until dark. Group rates available; call (706) 228-5540 for more information.

Ladies golf

The Gordon Lakes Ladies Golf Association tees off at 10 a.m. **Thursdays** at Gordon Lakes. For information, call (706) 863-3747.

Golf course

Gordon Lakes Golf Course is open daily, 6:30 a.m.-7 p.m., offering 27 holes of play and a driving range. For information call (706) 791-2433.

Junior NASCAR

Child and Youth Services is now accepting registration for Junior NASCAR 2006. The first race date is April 29 for practice laps.

This new youth sport is open to ages 10-18. The cost is \$45. The deadline for registration is **April 24**.

For more information, call (706) 791-6500 or go to www.fortgordon.com.

Go-kart track open

The Fort Gordon Go-Kart Track is now open behind The Courtyard.

Go-kart hours are 4-9 p.m. Fridays, 12-9 p.m. Saturdays and 1-7 p.m. Sundays.

The cost is \$5 each ride. For more information, call (706) 791-5078.

Veterans' golf fees

Gordon Lakes Golf Course is offering a reduced rate to all prior service veterans.

The cost is \$17 week-days, \$20 weekends and \$625 for yearly fees.

For more information, call (706) 791-2433

Weight off the shoulders: *Powerlifting changes life of Fort Gordon civilian*

Kristy Davies

Signal staff

Superman could turn the Earth and The Thing could stop tractor trailers in their tracks. Being super strong has always been a fascination for humans, especially men.

The modern and more realistic solution to this appealing activity is powerlifting. Being able to lift enormous amounts of weight can result in self confidence and respect.

For one Fort Gordon man, powerlifting is more than that: it is a lifesaver.

"I started lifting when I was 28 or 29 years old just to stay in shape," said Michael Shealy, an instructor with Strategic Tactical Microwave System. "Around age 39 I started power lifting here at Fort Gordon. Then I went on a 14 year hiatus.

"I gained too much weight," added Shealy. "My father passed away due to diabetes and my brother has diabetes so it was hanging around my neck. I figured I'd better do something."

Shealy promised himself that he would compete in powerlifting and break some of the local state records. At the age of 54, Shealy is in the best shape of his life.

"After seven or eight months of getting back into the gym I had surpassed all of my limits 14 years ago," smiled Shealy. "I went on and I have competed in about 11 or 12 competitions in the last two or three years. I currently hold 12 state records in three different states."

Shealy works out four to five days a week, primarily lifting free weights.



Photo by Kristy Davies

Michael Shealy, an instructor with Strategic Tactical Microwave System, squats 505 pounds of weight at Gym 6 during a workout routine. Shealy competes in powerlifting competitions throughout Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina.

"I'll hit some aerobics, but that's closer toward the time when I need to lose weight," said Shealy.

Powerlifters tend to lift more weight in the gym than when they are under the pressure of a competition.

"I have squatted 540 pounds in the gym, benched 400 in the gym and my dead lift is 405," added Shealy.

Competing with the American Powerlifting Association and the American Powerlifting Federation, Shealy must compete in three events.

"You have three lifts: the squat, bench press and the dead lift," explained Shealy. "You have three attempts at each. If you don't make one of those attempts in each, you're out of the meet and it's over with.

"The squat you have the bar on your traps behind your neck and you will go down, squat to the floor so that your hips are below your knees and then come back up," Shealy explained as he demonstrated how far down a competitor must go. "The bench press is

where you lower (the weights) to your chest, come to a complete stop and, at the ref's command, you press back up. For the dead lift, you approach the bar and just lift it off the floor up to your waist. It can't hit you and has to be a fluid movement or continuous upward movement."

Preparing for the meets has become a routine for Shealy.

"I usually go on about a six to eight week cycle (of workouts)," he said. "About six weeks out, I start cutting out the sweets and all the white

stuff like sugar, flour and pasta. I'll start increasing the aerobics to get down to my weight so I don't have to crash diet."

"For the last four weeks I'm using well over 80 percent of my maximum in the weight room; any more than that I will over train, which I've done before."

Camaraderie and the thrill of competing keeps bringing Shealy back to the powerlifting arena.

"The competitions are fantastic," smiled Shealy. "There's lots of camaraderie in the power lifting field. Everybody helps everybody with everything."

Keeping a good sportsman-like attitude helps Shealy throughout the competitions.

"In one competition with the APA about a year ago another individual and I were going head-to-head for the state record," Shealy said. "Going into the dead lift I had a 75 pound advantage over him and he just blew me away in the dead lift, but I was pulling for him every inch of the way. We share the state record for the squat."

According to Shealy, powerlifting is not just a sport competing with other people, but it forces you to compete with yourself and to always do better than you did the last time.

"It's a wonderful stress relief," added Shealy. "You get rid of the angers and frustrations and don't go home and kick the cat. You just push it out."

"You're never too old," he added. "Don't think that I'm too fat, too slow or too weak. You compete with yourself and you better yourself."

Buy me some peanuts...

(Left) During the Opening Day ceremonies for the Augusta GreenJackets baseball team, the Fort Gordon color guard presents the American flag. The Signal Corps Band performed the national anthem and a fly over by the U.S. Marine Corps out of Beaufort, S.C., awed the crowd. **(Below)** Staff Sgt. Kim Klingbiel, a Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course student, takes an order from a baseball fan. About 30 BNCOC students volunteered to help out at the opening day game. The sold out game had a record 5,239 fans and the GreenJackets won 6-4 over the Greenville Drive.



Photos by Kristy Davies

Army Women's Basketball coach dies suddenly

Army News Service

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Army Women's Basketball Coach Maggie Dixon, 28, died April 7 at Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, N.Y.

Dixon collapsed Wednesday during an afternoon tea and was taken immediately to Keller Army Community Hospital. She was then airlifted to Westchester, N.Y.

West Point superintendent, Lt. Gen. William J. Lennox Jr., said the entire community is heartbroken by her death.

"From the time Maggie arrived here, her enthusiastic 'no limits' approach earned her the respect and love of everyone," he said. "She consistently displayed great leadership and

served as an outstanding role model for those both on — and off — her team. She was a leader of character with a commitment to excellence who set the example in all she did."

"Her joy in coaching these young women made them believe in themselves and depend on each other," said Kevin Anderson, Army athletic director. "Her guidance not only helped them excel here, it will help them become better, more compassionate leaders."

That sentiment was echoed by one of the Army's star basketball players, guard Cara Enright.

"I just loved the energy that coach brought to practice every day and the way she never gave up on us, always believed

in us," Enright said.

"Coach Dixon made us love the game even more and we played our hearts out every single time we stepped on the court," Enright added. "She showed us how to be winners on the field and off."

And that winning legacy will always be remembered, Lennox said. "Maggie has been a credit to herself and to the mission of the U.S. Military Academy. Her presence here enriched the lives of everyone," he added. "I will never forget the image of the cadets carrying her on their shoulders as they celebrated the team's Patriot League championship."

"Our thoughts and prayers are with her family and we will

be forever grateful for all she has given us, both on the playing field and off," Lennox said.

Dixon arrived just 11 days before the start of the season and took over as coach of the Army women's basketball team. She guided them to their first Patriot League regular season and tournament titles, earning West Point its first trip to the NCAA tournament at the Division I level in 2006.

Dixon became the Black Knights' seventh head coach in the history of intercollegiate women's basketball history at West Point after serving five years as an assistant coach at DePaul University.

(Information provided by the U.S. Military Academy Public Affairs Office.)



Courtesy photo

Army Women's Basketball Coach Maggie Dixon died April 7.

Army Parachute Team tests vertical wind tunnel for recruiting

Staff Sgt. Marie Schult
Army News Service

FORT BRAGG, N.C.—The U.S. Army Accessions Command and the U.S. Army Parachute Team, or Golden Knights, are looking to the skies as a means of drawing new recruits.

The Golden Knights recently tested a portable vertical wind tunnel, brought to the Knights' home base at Fort Bragg, N.C., by Virtual Reality Skydive.

"I think it would be an excellent recruiting tool for the Army," said Staff Sgt. Brian Krause, the Golden Knights' Formation Freefall Team Leader. "Just because it gives people an idea of what we do every day, it gives them a little of what the Army is all about."

While the Knights are known for innovation and style, this is one idea that they can't claim as their own.

"I got the idea (of the portable tunnel) from watching the closing ceremonies of the Winter Olympics," said Sgt. Maj. Mike Eitnear. During the 2006 Winter Olympics closing ceremonies, a freely team wowed the crowds using a portable vertical wind tunnel.

"I bounced the idea off of our commander, and we both felt it had practical applications so we took the opportunity to present the concept to the U.S. Army Accessions Command commander, Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp. He loved the idea," said Eitnear.

"I think the kids will love it," said Sgt. 1st Class Dave Herwig, the Knights' information management officer. "They will have the opportunity to do something that a lot of people never do — of course, we do it every day."

The Golden Knights have, for the last 48 years, been a viable recruiting tool for the Army. However, as Krause pointed out, it's hard to get the public's attention during most

events because of everything going on.

He believes the PVWT, in conjunction with Golden Knight freeflyers, will attract more public attention to the Army recruiting tents.

"This thing is always a huge attention getter. It's loud at 146 decibels," said Matthew Kornoely, manager of the PVWT for VR Skydive. He has taken the PVWT to hundreds of colleges and universities in the last two years.

While the Knights definitely give the PVWT a thumbs up, the Army will do further testing prior to purchasing, according to Capt. Wayne Wall, the Knights' operations officer.

"We need to see if we can get the best return on our investment," said Wall.

Eitnear said the PVWT would be staffed by a crew of freeflyers who would do short demonstrations and members of the crowd, chosen randomly, would be given the opportunity to do a five-minute flight with a member of the team.

"The Army is always looking for new ways to get the Army's message out there and were thinking that this is one of the ways we can benefit," said Wall.

(Schult writes for the U.S. Army Parachute Team's Public Affairs Office.)



Photo by Staff Sgt. Marie Schult

Sgt. 1st Class Karen Morrison, a skydiver with the Golden Knights, flies just feet above the vertical wind tunnel provided to the team by VR Skydive.

Spectrum

No trophy case space for latest award

Fire department facing good problem

Larry Edmond
Signal staff

The Fort Gordon Fire and Emergency Service unit is the best of its size in the southeast region.

Officials from the Installation Management Agency on March 31 notified Fort Gordon fire chief Lester Porter that his unit has been named best in the region for 2005. Some 17 installations were considered. With three engines, Fort Gordon was selected as the small station of the year.

This award puts the Fort Gordon F&ES unit in the competition for designation as the best Army F&ES unit in the nation.

The Office of Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management will present an award to Fort Gordon's F&ES unit in Dallas, Texas, June 1 at the DoD/International Association of Fire Chiefs Conference. The national winners will also be announced at that time.

A walk through the central fire station at the corner of Rice Road and Brainard Avenue offers a clear picture of what makes the unit outstanding. The fire station sparkles with huge windows splashing sunlight everywhere. Light bounces from shimmering floors to bright red polished fire engines.

Some rescue team members and firefighters are pumping iron in the on-site fitness room. Others are pouring through training manuals. In the

kitchen, a non-descript low-calorie fish and olive dish is being stirred into existence.

A trophy case filled to capacity with trophies, awards and citations sits in the midst of a hallway festooned with prayers and reminders that this is a calling.

Porter, a 12 year veteran of the department, is completing his first year as chief Wednesday. He says there are no secrets to the unit's success.

"Our mission is to protect lives and save property. We take that mission very seriously.

People should know that everyone here is very professional. They come in here wanting to do a good job. From the bottom to top and vice versa there is a lot of camaraderie. We know we are only here because of the Soldiers and their families. It takes a lot of pride to be in this profession," Porter said.

Training is one of the elements IMA considers in evaluating fire units. Every firefighter must have basic firefighter II, emergency medical technician basic, national registry and hazardous material certifications. Porter said, "We have made sure that everyone completed the minimum training and then we exceed that."

Around the clock, 24 hours a day seven days each week, 13-member crews are available at the station. During the down time between emergencies, the crews are working to hone their skills.

"The public can sleep comfortably

because these guys are good. And they are not complacent with where they are. They are constantly working to get better.

When those tones go off we want to be able to respond immediately, effectively and mitigate whatever that call is. When someone calls 911 for us, they really need help. They are not just calling to have something to do. We know that we only get one chance to get it right. There are no do overs. It is a terrible feeling to think that a life can be lost if we fail to perform," said Porter.

The 44-year-old fire chief said the award did not come as a surprise to him. In his 20 years of experience as a firefighter, he has seen good and bad units. He also had been alerted that Fort Gordon was seriously in consideration for the recognition.

However, he said he did not hold out the competition as goal for the firefighters.

"I did not want to clue the guys into the idea that we were in competition. Sometimes people get caught up focusing on a destination and lose the value of the journey. Instead of looking toward competing against someone else, this had to be about not getting distracted. This is simply about doing the things that are necessary to be the best in the areas that are essential to protecting our people here.

"I try to put my people in a comfort zone. I want everyone to come to work relaxed and looking forward to being here, because it can go from kind of like low key to wide open just like that," Porter said.

On a routine basis the crews are continuously training and cross training. With 41 of its 43 slots filled the

unit is expecting two new recruits to arrive in May.

Even with the prestigious recognition, Porter has regrets.

"I wish that we would have submitted for some of the individual awards available in this competition. We have guys around here who would certainly have gotten the recognition that they deserve."

Porter says there are other milestones for the team.

"We have a combat challenge team that we are expecting to do very well

in national competitions," he said.

Each summer, hundreds of fire departments from around the country vie in a competition that has been growing in popularity since sports television networks began carrying extensive coverage. All of the events are fire and emergency service related tasks.

Out of more than 130 teams, Fort Gordon placed in the top 20 previously.

"This year we are looking to win it," Porter said.



Photos by Larry Edmond

Matthew Williams, assistant chief (left) and Lester Porter, chief, search for space in the crowded trophy case for a spot to place the latest award that the Fort Gordon Fire and Emergency Services unit has earned.



Firefighters Jeff Phillips (above left) and Rob Tello are in the middle of their required daily weight training workout in the on-site exercise room when they are interrupted by an emergency call. (Right) Personnel fire up Fort Gordon's Engine 10 as Tello (below) rushes from the exercise room and straps on rescue gear.



Punctuating the frantic pace of the moment, the boots of firefighter Rob Tello sit in the Fort Gordon fire station bay where he hastily slipped from them into his fire gear. In the background Fire Engine 10 speeds out on an emergency call.



Photos by Steve Brady

A walk worth taking

James Hudgins
Special to the Signal

Every Masters Tournament for the past seven decades have been special events (although I can only vouch for the past 10) with unmatched scenic beauty and golfing majesty. From my perspective, however, this year's 70th meeting was even more special and unique.

Perhaps it was the warm winter we've just experienced. Although difficult to believe, perhaps the groundskeepers at Augusta National added some new magic to their skills. Maybe it was just Mother Nature smiling at all of us while arranging to have the azaleas,

dogwoods and other flowering fauna hit their peak this past week.

Whatever the cause, the background for the 70th Masters was a real artist's palette of colors and shades. It was so beautiful that an attendee didn't mind not being able to clearly see much of the actual golfing action over the excited crowds. After all, you don't have to attend mass to appreciate a cathedral, or watch a sculptor chisel to savor a piece of fine art. Just seeing and enjoying is satisfying enough.

At this year's tournament, we celebrated a worthy champion in Phil Mikelson. Besides his second green jacket, he fi-

nally got to retire his title as a great golfer who always found a way to 'hack' his way out of major championships. For those fans who enjoy watching professional golfers struggle, and mostly lose against a formidable course, *this* was the week to spectate. Augusta National, with its already fast greens given warp speed and its tight fairways lengthened to the horizon, made other difficult venues like Shinnecock and Pinehurst look tame in comparison.

This year we saw Tom Lehman unable to shoot par, but had his courtesy car shot by a passing idiot. We saw every continent represented on the

leader board deep into the weekend, showing the appeal that golf and the Masters has around the globe. We saw great shots and poor shots, balls soaring through the air or disappearing like stones in Raes Creek. And, of course, we show the 360-degree beauty that is Augusta National.

The golfers have packed up their clubs and families and moved on to Hilton Head for the next tournament. Many will enrich themselves with golfing experiences and hefty purses in the next year. But it doesn't really matter...the real golfing experience will occur early next April with the 71st Masters.



"Steady Freddie" Funk shows his renowned form off the tee.

Photo by James Hudgins



Photo by James Hudgins

(Top) Ben Crenshaw waves to his fans after hitting closest to the pin. The 54-year-old two-time Masters winner was the oldest player to make this year's cut. (Above) The "Three Amigos" from Spain enjoyed their friendly Par Three contest. Playing together (left to right) are Sergio Garcia, Jose Maria Olazabal and Miguel Angel Jimenez.



(Above) World-famous Magnolia Drive leads awed golfers to the clubhouse. (Right) Defending champion Tiger Woods came up short in his quest for a fifth green jacket. Woods finished tied for third in the tournament.



File photo



Australian Mark Hensby blasts out of a greenside bunker.



(Above) Tens of thousands of golf enthusiasts descend upon Augusta each year for the Masters Tournament, to see great golf and the impeccably well-maintained course. (Below) Texan Justin Leonard brought his daughter along as he played the Par Three tournament April 5.



2006 Masters Tournament champion Phil Mickelson shows his driving form en route to his second green jacket.



(Above) The “Golden Bear” Jack Nicklaus returned to the scene of his previous six Masters wins. Nicklaus played in the Par Three contest, but did not compete in the Masters Tournament. (Right) Crenshaw putts out during the Par Three contest. He gave a golf clinic at Gordon Lakes before the tournament began.



You didn’t ask me, but...

Ruminations while viewing the Masters Tournament

James Hudgins
Special to the Signal

While attending the Masters Tournament last week I had the chance to make several observations I wanted to share with those who have not experienced the tournament at Augusta National.

I don’t care how large your box of crayons is.... I’m certain it doesn’t have a ‘green’ that matches the indescribable color of Augusta National’s fairways.

The grounds are always beautiful...but there seemed to be more flowers and color than ever before. Think it was the warm and wet winter we had this year?

The players seemed bigger and more athletically fit ...if you ignore John Daly! You can’t say that about the patrons watching the competition. We need to save some of these people from themselves by not allowing them to wear shorts on the course. What rhymes with ‘knobby?’

Personally, I enjoyed the difficulty of the course. Seeing the professionals struggle to make par makes them seem more human and fallible...like the rest of us hackers.

In that vein, the greens were

faster, and harder to read than ever. It looked like the pros were putting on a billiard table with speed bumps.

It was very heartening to see so many elderly men bring their daughters and granddaughters to the course to enjoy the atmosphere and lush surroundings.

Speaking of atmosphere....a lasting remembrance will be the unique combination of expensive cigar smoke and more expensive perfume when surrounded by the galleries.

Why is it that no matter what we do in Augusta...even hosting the world’s most famous golfing event....the Atlanta media always finds fault. It’s as if nothing can be worthwhile unless it happens in Atlanta. Sorry to burst their bubble, but that’s not what the majority of people think in the ‘real’ Georgia.

Ben Crenshaw gave every middle aged golfer a boost over the weekend with his courageous and skillful play. Besides being one of the best golfers in PGA history, he’s also one of the best people in any sport. Look in the dictionary for the meaning of the word ‘gracious’ and you’ll see his photo.

Only 51 more weeks until the 71st Masters...I can hardly wait!



Nicklaus, a perennial favorite at Augusta, holds the record for most victories at Augusta National (*six*), as well as the oldest person to win. Nicklaus won the tourney in 1986 at 46 years old.



Augusta National’s famous clubhouse and logo in flowers greet patrons.